

# Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • March/April 2014



## Leave baby wildlife in the wild

**W**ild baby animals are cute, but they are also part of a natural system of parenting and prey that should not be disturbed. Each spring, our Missouri Department of Conservation staff receives inquiries from the public about young wildlife found in a yard or perhaps in the woods.

What should you do if you find baby wild animals, and the parent appears to be missing or is dead?

You should leave the animal where you found it.

In many cases the baby animal is not abandoned. Wildlife parents may be near, but your presence may have caused them to retreat or hide. If a baby animal is left alone, the parent will often return. Parents in some situations may be in the vicinity eating or gathering food for their young. They may have left the young alone for a time with the intent to return.

Captivity is not nature's design for wild animals. The young especially require highly specialized care to survive in

captivity. Without that care they may be in poor health or die. Regardless, they were born free and should remain that way.

Many wild animals born in one spring will not live to see the next regardless of human actions. Young creatures are often the prey for predators. Or if natural death occurs, they are food for scavengers such as crows and turkey vultures. Nothing is wasted in nature.

People have reason to be cautious about baby wildlife, too. Native wildlife can carry mites, ticks, lice, fleas, roundworms, tapeworms, rabies, distemper, tuberculosis, respiratory diseases and skin diseases. Some of these diseases can be transmitted to humans.

Safety is also an issue. A creature might survive if picked up as a baby and raised in a household. But as they mature their instincts and energies change behavior. They can become a nuisance or even dangerous.

The Wildlife Code of Missouri prohibits the possession of many live wild animals without a state or federal permit. This law protects wildlife and people.

Humans possess a natural compassion for each other and wildlife. But when interacting with nature we must accept that wild things are part of cycles far older than ourselves.

Baby wildlife in the outdoors should be left where found. Picking up a young animal may do more harm than good for the creature. Nature has a plan for all things moving through its cycles and seasons.

— Bill Graham, Media Specialist

## Good fishing for a spring favorite

**A**s April approaches, fine crappie fishing is near. This thin-bodied panfish is often considered the tastiest of our freshwater species. And if you time it right, it can be some of the easiest fishing you can find.

As the daylight lengthens and the ice retreats, many anglers like to head for the lake with ultralight fishing tackle. Crappie fishing begins early as the water warms up from rising temperatures allowing underwater vegetation to start growing and releasing oxygen into the water. The plant growth supports blooming plankton populations which entice minnows to the scene. And, for the crappie angler, this is where the food chain gets interesting.

Hungry crappies are attracted to the schooling minnows – their favorite food source. A good place to start is by dropping a live minnow into submerged brush. Hook a small minnow through the back just behind the dorsal fin. You can use a small bobber to keep the minnow suspended at a depth where the fish are located, often in water 10 feet or deeper.



Another tactic is to work a feather or plastic jig near underwater structure. Some of the best places to find crappie are the most accessible too. Docks and boat marinas are often popular hangouts because they provide the fish overhead cover and are located in deeper water.

As spring advances, crappie will come into shallow water to spawn. When you find the fish, the action can get pretty fast and furious!

—Shea Bergman, Education Specialist

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

## **NATURE CENTER HOURS:**

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

## **AREA AND TRAILS:**

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## **What's for Dinner?**

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday (March 7 & 21; April 4 & 18).

## **Maple Sugaring**

March 1 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration required; began Feb. 1* (all ages)

In our culture of a supermarket in every neighborhood it is almost magical and spectacular to be able to make something delicious to eat out of some liquid flowing out of a tree. Savor this wonder of nature by learning how to tap trees, collect sap and make delicious syrup from native trees.

## **Beginning Birding**

March 8 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 13+)

Blue, black, little, quick, where did it go?

Birding is a fun and sometimes challenging pastime to do alone or with a friend. It works our mind and brings us closer to nature. Join a naturalist to learn some tips on how to get started.

## **Babes in the Woods:**

### **Pine Forest Play**

March 11 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required* (babes under 36 mos.)

The pine forest is a magical place to romp and discover nature with your little one. From the sweet smells to the softly muted sounds, you and your child will delight in these unique outdoor sensations.

## **Conservation Kids Club:**

### **Experience the Dance**

March 11 • Tuesday • 7–8:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 7–13)

They jump, fly, dance and make strange noises. The American woodcock may be an odd looking bird, but it puts on a fantastic springtime display. Join us to learn about some of the incredible adaptations of this little bird. We will venture out to do a little exploring to view the woodcock's special dance.

## **Little Acorns:**

### **What Does the Frog Say?**

March 12 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

March 22 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

Toads and frogs are our best signs that spring is just around the corner. We'll learn about these bumpy, slimy but songful animals as we take a hike to listen to what they are saying.

## **Home School:**

### **Mammal Mania**

March 12 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for ages

6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8, 9–11

*Registration required*

This furry group of animals share unique characteristics that set them apart from all other animals. Join us as we celebrate all that is special about mammals.

## **Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale**

March 15 • Saturday • 8 AM–12:45 PM

*Registration required; began Feb. 1* (adults)

Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources, native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on shade-loving plants, butterfly gardening, stepping stones, wild edibles, treescaping and many more.

**The Native Plant Sale is open from**

**12:45–1:15 PM for workshop participants**

**and 1:15–3:45 PM for the public.**

## **Frog Frenzy**

March 22 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

You know spring is near when you begin to hear the chirping and trills of frogs and toads. Come out and learn about these small



but important amphibians, then we'll set out to listen to them serenade the forest with their springtime songs.

## **Wild Ones: Introducing Missouri's Wild Edible Plants**

March 25 • Tuesday • 1–3 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

There is nothing quite as satisfying as knowing that even if you were lost in the wilderness you could find edible plants to stay alive. Besides, these plants are nutritious and delicious too! Come out and start a new relationship with the incredible wild edible plants of Missouri!

## **Introduction to Turkey Hunting**

March 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 11+; youngsters

ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an

adult) Spring is here and the toms are

strutting. That can only mean one thing to some people: spring turkey season is here!

For more than 50 years, Missourians have enjoyed pursuing these large elusive birds. Join us as we explore the basics of turkey hunting, including locations, equipment, techniques and more.

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)

## Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

March 29 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

April 26 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in* (ages 2+)

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies.

## Frog & Toad are Friends

April 5 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM

*Registration required*

(families with children ages 4–9)

In beloved books, Frog and Toad are friends and a classic for young readers. In nature they may share a pond or a puddle, but each is unique in their lifestyle. Step into their world to see these characters come alive as we search for the frogs and toads that live here and see just how they grow up.

## Babes in the Woods: Habitat Trail in Spring

April 8 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

*Registration required* (babes under 36 mos.)

Our Habitat Trail is a beautiful place that holds wonderful destinations along its meandering path. Join us for a leisurely walk around the loop and discover some new places to play with your babe.

## A Concert with WildHeart

April 11 · Friday · 7–8 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Emmy® Award Winning educators and entertainers, Jan & George Syrigos make up the musical group WildHeart. This duo captures young audiences with a

strong science message exploring wildlife, habitats and natural history. WildHeart energizes their original award-winning music with motion, media and the conservation

message for a wild and unforgettable journey through our natural world.



## Spring in Your Step

April 12 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Let's take a hike that is guaranteed to awaken your senses and put a spring in your step. Will we hear birds, see insects, spot wildflowers? There is only one way to find out, join us for a revitalizing hike.

## Owl Prowl

April 12 · Saturday · 7:30–9:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 5+)

Who rules the forest when dusk turns to night? Our amazing owls, of course! Learn about adaptations that allow owls to be great nocturnal predators, and then join us in the forest to seek out our special guests!

## Little Acorns: Trees are Tree-rific!

April 12 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

April 16 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

Trees are one of the largest living organisms on Earth! They are an amazing and important part of all life on Earth. Come learn about these magnificent plants and why we love them.

## Conservation Kids Club: Symphony of Spring

April 15 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 7–13)

Experience the songs of nature in the spring. Frogs are performing every night here at Burr Oak Woods, so join us for an exciting evening of amphibious music. We will learn to identify Missouri frogs by their own unique songs and visit several ponds to enjoy their concerts.

## Home School: Backyard Birds

April 16 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8, 9–11

*Registration required*

Who's hopping up that tree, making that sound, or eating that birdseed? Find out the answer to these and many more questions as we explore the feathery creatures of our backyards.

## Women's Spring Fling Workshop

April 25–27 · Friday–Sunday · 6 PM–1 PM

*Registration required* (women ages 18+; girls ages 14–17 are welcome when accompanied by an adult woman)

**The Discover Nature Women Spring Fling Workshop** provides a safe and friendly environment where women experience hands-on Outdoor Skills Training, such as archery, canoeing, outdoor cooking, GPS or Map and Compass and much more by a team of outdoor skills professionals. Courses will be held at the Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center, Excelsior Spring, MO. For more information contact Lisa LaCombe @ 816-655-6263 ext 232 or [lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov).

## Family Archery

April 19 · Saturday · Noon–2 PM

*Registration required*

(families with children ages 8+)

Archery and bow hunting are becoming very popular sports! Discover the fun of this family activity as parents and kids learn together. We will teach and practice the basics and help you perfect your stance to shoot more consistently and accurately.

## Wild Ones: Earth Day Celebration of Edible Spring Flowers

April 22 · Tuesday · 1–3 PM

*Registration required* (adults)

Nothing is quite as exciting as when those first wildflowers of spring finally peek out from the fall leaves of a season gone by. Some of these little gems are even edible! In this class you will learn how to identify them and discover ways to prepare them for your dining pleasure.

## Alternative Fishing Methods

April 26 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (all ages)

Trot lines, jug lines, bows and gigs have been used to catch fish in Missouri for many, many years. But what are they and how do you catch fish with them? Many people today only fish with a rod and reel, but these other methods are fun and effective as well. Join us as we explore some different ways to catch fish.



# Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/282](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282)



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

## HOURS:

### May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

### September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## Teens and .22 cal.

March 1 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

April 5 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required (ages 11–17)*

The course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics to be covered will include safe gun handling, parts of a .22 rifle, marksmanship and much more. Continue to come out to the Teens and .22 class every month to improve your skill and have fun doing it with guidance and coaching offered by the Lake City Staff. This class includes range time.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

March 9 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required (ages 12+)*

Tired of trap shooting and looking for a quicker game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

## Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 13 · Thursday · 5–9:30 PM

*Registration required (all ages)*

For the novice turkey hunter who would like to know more about hunting the elusive eastern wild turkey. We will discuss how to scout for turkeys, where they roost, use of blinds and decoys as well as patterning your shotgun properly. There will be range time so bring your shotgun and your favorite turkey load.

## Beginning Archery

March 15 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required (ages 12–17)*

Archery is becoming very popular with younger people today. Many competitions are held between school archery teams. Learn more of the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper equipment, stance, draw technique and follow through.

## Intro to Paracord

March 26 · Wednesday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required (ages 8–14)*

This is a fun course for kids 8 to 14 years of age. The student will learn to weave paracord into bracelets, friendship bracelets and other articles using the following types of weave: Cobra Weave, S-Weave, Half Hitch, Four Strand Weave and Back Cobra Weave. All material are supplied and the kids will go home with a new bracelet.

## Patterning Your Shotgun

April 2 · Wednesday · 5–7:30 PM and

April 10 · Thursday · 5–7:30 PM

*Registration required (ages 12+)*

Patterning your shotgun is a very important part of turkey hunting that is overlooked by turkey hunters. We will discuss the principles of patterning, how to use different turkey shotshells and chokes to achieve the most effective pattern for your shotgun.

## NRA Basic Rifle–First Step

April 18 · Friday · 5–8:30 PM

*Registration required (ages 12+)*

NRA First Step is a good way to get a basic understanding of a rifle as well as the basic understanding of marksmanship. Special requirements: Ruger 10/22 rifles only.

## Women's Firearm Safety–Phase I

April 19 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required (women ages 18+)*

Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

## Introduction to Double Trap

April 24 · Thursday · 4–6:30 PM

*Registration required (ages 16+)*

This is a shooting sport geared to shooters who are accomplished at shooting American Trap and would like a new challenge. Special requirements: only double barreled and semi-automatic shotguns.

## NRA Basic Shotgun–First Step

April 25 · Friday · 5–8:30 PM

*Registration required (ages 12+)*

NRA First Step program is well known as a great place to learn about your shotgun. The class is facilitated by NRA instructors with NRA materials. Special requirement: Remington 870 12 gauge shotguns only; they **will not** be provided for this program.

## Basic Handgun

April 27 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required (ages 18+)*

This is a novice class for handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the

handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.



## Turkey Season the Right Way

**W**ith Spring Turkey season just around the corner, this is a good time to prepare the hunter and his shotgun when toms are gobbling. Hunters who pattern their shotgun learn important lessons that can really make a difference in filling a tag or not. It pays to know your equipment prior to the hunt. Does the shotgun fit correctly? Is there too much recoil? Do you flinch when shooting? These are important things to find out before going to the field.

Going to the range early gives the hunter the opportunity to work out any problems that may arise with his equipment. Time at the range allows for the hunter to fine-tune other factors that can have a negative effect on his success. Here are a few factors to consider:

**A good turkey choke:** a Turkey choke has more constriction than a Full choke and is often labeled Extra Full or XX Full. Tighter chokes are designed for smaller pellets such as No. 6 or No. 5 shot. The more open constrictions are better suited for larger pellets such as No. 4's.

**Ammunition:** Different types of ammunition will shoot or pattern differently in your shotgun. When you come to the range it is important that you bring several types of turkey loads with a variety of shot size. This way you can experiment with different ammunition and shot size to find the best turkey load for your shotgun.

**Patterning your shotgun:** The ideal pattern for turkey hunting is 100 pellets in a 10-inch circle at 40 yards. This density means there should be plenty of pellets in the small vital area of the turkey's head and neck to harvest the animal ethically.

Now that you have the proper choke, the right turkey load and have resolved all problems with your shotgun, devote some time at the range to determine how your firearm and ammunition perform at different distances.

— Steve Elliott, Lake City Range Supervisor

### .22 Plinking

March 13 · Thursday · 5:30–7:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

The .22 Long Rifle cartridge is one of the most economical and versatile cartridges available to shooters today. For that reason, and many more, it is fun to shoot. Join our certified rifle instructors for an evening of .22 plinking fun for the whole family. An understanding of basic shooting safety and marksmanship fundamentals is required for all participants.

### Introduction to Archery

March 16 · Sunday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Shooting archery is a popular way to spend leisure time for millions of people. It requires patience and discipline to excel. Attend this introductory level workshop to learn about the equipment, techniques and archery safety in a safe controlled environment.

### Introduction to Turkey Hunting

March 22 · Saturday · 9 AM–4 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Turkey hunting is a great way to spend time with family and friends while enjoying nature in spring. This day long workshop is designed to teach participants how to more successfully hunt the wild turkey. We'll discuss turkey biology, hunting equipment, regulations and strategies that will make you a more confident turkey hunter.

### Shotgun Patterning

April 5 · Saturday · 8 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

One critical element of hunting with a shotgun is making sure that your equipment is capable of doing what you want it to do. Skipping this step could potentially lead to lost or wounded game. Join our experienced staff as we take you through the process of properly patterning your shotgun. There will be some time set aside for you to pattern your gun, so make sure you bring your favorite shotgun, a few shells and your choke tubes.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.

### HOURS:

**May 1–September 30**

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

**October 1–April 30**

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

### FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Introductions to Firearms

April 18 · Friday · 6–9 PM and

April 19 · Saturday · 8:30–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Staying safe around firearms requires the appropriate level of knowledge and skill combined with a positive attitude. Join our certified firearms instructors as we explore the fun of shooting in a safe and controlled environment. This course will cover all major types of firearms and will include live fire.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/281](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/281)



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

## **HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM  
Closed all state holidays.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

## **Signs of Spring**

March 1 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

With the arrival of March, we anticipate and seek signs of spring. Join us as we explore Discovery Center's grounds and uncover what plants and animals are emerging as the weather warms. We will create a piece of art that uses some of the elements we find. Hikes will start every hour on the hour.

## **Introduction to Backpacking**

March 1 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

### **Prep Session**

March 15 & 16 • Saturday & Sunday •

### **Backpacking Trip**

*Registration required* (adults)

We are planning an overnight backpacking trip in Missouri and you are invited. Learn what gear, skills and physical abilities are needed to be a part of this experience. First timers are welcome to join the trip. If you don't have the gear we will provide

equipment to use. Attending the March 1st prep session is mandatory to go on the overnight trip.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

March 1 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM  
March 15 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM  
April 5 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM  
April 19 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM  
*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Tonewood Conservation**

March 4 • Tuesday • 7–8:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

Bill Graham and Mark Nelson provide a musical look at the conservation needed for trees that provide wood used in popular musical instruments. Missouri maple is used for fiddles, mandolins and guitars. Our native oaks may be a future guitar wood. Ash, a staple in electric guitar building, is threatened by the emerald ash borer. Some of the world's finest woods for making



instruments are scarce or even endangered and no longer available. Bill and Mark will be playing music on various fine instruments as they talk about the woods used to make them.

## **Scout Program**

March 4 • Tuesday • Evening

April 1 • Tuesday • Evening

*Registration required* (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or [Wendy.Parrett@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Wendy.Parrett@mdc.mo.gov) to schedule an evening program.

## **Turtle Treks**

March 15 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

As the weather warms, turtles are on the move seeking a warm place to bask in the sun. Come learn about how you can assist when you see turtles crossing the roads. You'll have the chance to come face to face with these scaly reptiles and create your own "box turtle" to take home.

## **Brush Creek:**

### **Wildlife Along Brush Creek**

March 18 • Tuesday • 7 PM

*No registration required*

(adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

A large creek in the middle of our city provides suitable habitat for a wide array of wildlife. While all of the creatures are beautiful in their own way, some are more desirable and pleasant than others. Join us for the third presentation in our Brush Creek Series as MDC Urban Wildlife Biologist Joe DeBold discusses what we might expect to see along this old waterway and what we can do about creatures that over stay their welcome.

## **Nature in Your Neighborhood Art Competition Awards Night**

April 1 • Tuesday • 5:30–8 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Join us for a celebration of nature as seen through the eyes of area students. View student artwork portraying nature in their different neighborhoods, talk with some of the artists then stick around for the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

## **Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session**

April 1 • Tuesday • 6–10 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+)

This skills session is the second half of

the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option,





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the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at: <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

## What's That Scat?

April 5 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Do you know your doo doo? Have a grip on your guano? Animals leave many signs behind but few are as telling as their scat. These unique calling cards tell the animal tracker much about who was there, what was eaten and even whether it was a male or female in some species. Navigate the scat-scavenger hunt and learn all you can about nature's number two. We have rubber replicas on hand but some examples will be more authentic!

## Paddling the Missouri River

April 15 · Tuesday · 7 PM

*No registration required* (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Did you know that the world's longest paddling race takes place right outside our backdoor? The Missouri River 340 has been called "an everyman's Everest" and with the proper know-how, anyone stands a chance at completing it. Join us for an evening with 5-time race veteran Brett Dufur, MDC editor and writer, as he shares his experiences paddling on the Missouri River. Brett will be sharing how-to's and advice to invigorate others to compete in the MR340 or to just dip a paddle in the Missouri River for a leisurely float.

## The Photography of David Stonner

April 19 · Saturday · 10 AM–1 PM

*Registration required* (ages 10+)

Join us for a nature photography workshop led by Conservation Department wildlife photographer David Stonner. We'll cover basic photographic techniques then David will lead us on a photo hike through the Discovery Center grounds.

## Head, Thorax and Abdomen...Oh My!

April 19 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Of the 10 million species of insects on earth, many of them call Missouri home. The amazing butterfly, the strong ant and the busy bee are just a small sample of some of our native insects. Visit Discovery Center to learn more about these amazing organisms and create an insect of your own using recycled materials.

## Nature and the Arts Summer Camp

July 28–August 1 · Monday–Friday ·

8:30 AM–4:30 PM Daily

*Before and after care available beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.*

*Registration required* (Ages 9–12)

*Camp and the extended care are both free of charge.*

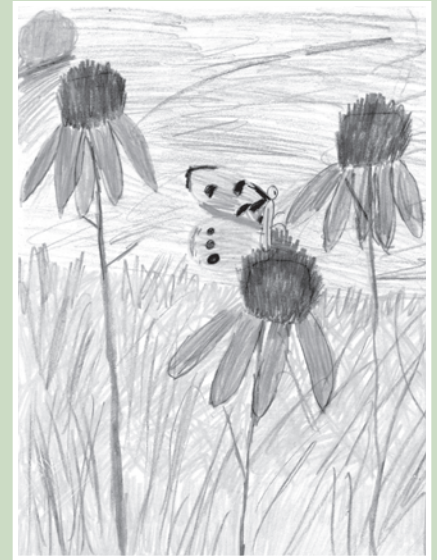
Nature and the arts go together like burgers and fries. They are great alone, but pair them together and you get something special. In this camp you will explore the plants and animals that call KC home and learn different artistic techniques to "capture" nature in the neighborhood. You will visit a local state park, conservation area and more. The week will culminate with a group art project at the Discovery Center.

*Applications will be available April 1 at the Discovery Center and on our website, <http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter>.*

***Applications will be accepted through April 30. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 9.***



*Nature and Arts Summer Camp and extended care are both free of charge.*



## Nature's spring beauty

**S**pring is a great time to explore the beauty of nature. As the cold winter days give way to the warmth of spring, make time to get outside. Utilize your senses and discover the vibrant color of wildflowers, notice the activity of wildlife and listen to the amazing sounds of the natural world. With so many natural resources in our backyards, parks and other wild places here in Kansas City, finding the beauty of spring is only a step away.

The celebration of nature is also seen through the eyes of area residents. During the months of March and April we invite you to enjoy a special student art exhibit. The student artwork on display is a reflection of how they view nature in their neighborhood.

The highlight of this art exhibit will take place Tuesday, April 1 with an awards ceremony. Artists will be available for questions prior to the awards.

**5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Artists available for questions**  
**6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Awards Presentation**

## Passport to Adventure kicks off at Bass Pro

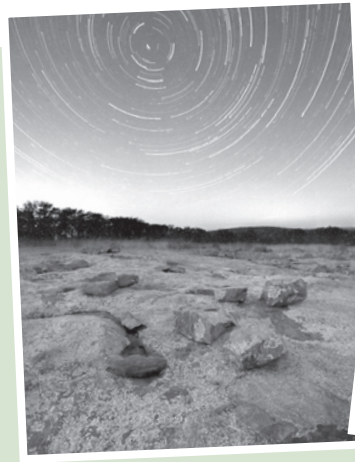
Come on Kids! Get your own Passport to Adventure Guide at the kick-off event at the Bass Pro Shop in Independence from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. Discover adventures that await you at local history, science and nature centers right here in your own backyard.

Grab your parents and your "Passport to Adventure" guide and begin your journey to explore Kansas City. Visit a participating site, answer the question in the guide and get excited because you are in store for a great adventure hunt! Those who complete their entire passport adventure will receive a special prize!



### Month of April – Artist Exhibit at Burr Oak Woods

"I have spent many hours discovering the large and the small of nature's beauty. I wanted to capture pieces of nature's beauty to keep and share with others. There is nothing I enjoy more than a long hike with camera in hand. I have learned no matter the size, all things in nature have their own beauty. I hope you'll look for and enjoy the large and the small as much as I do." —Tanya Jones



## Sharpening your outdoor photography skills with MDC's David Stonner

David Stonner's remarkable outdoor images have captivated readers of *Missouri Conservationist* magazine and others who have seen his photography. David's pictures are a labor of love requiring a deep understanding of wildlife as well as strong commitment and patience.

Join us at 10 a.m. on April 19 as one of Missouri Department of Conservation's finest photographers returns to the Discovery Center for a workshop focusing on the basics of nature photography. He will share some of his favorite pictures and stories behind them. He will then share basic photographic techniques before leading a photo



walk on Discovery Center's grounds. After the walk, those willing to share their photographs with the group will receive a critique from David and the other participants.

David will also bring his camera gear and allow participants the opportunity to use professional equipment during the hike.

Participants are encouraged to bring their camera's to the class. David insists that "even cellular phone cameras using basic photographic techniques can create profound images." Or, the Discovery Center can provide cameras for participants.

The approach taken in the workshop will be to make the technical aspects of creating photos intuitive for all. At the conclusion of the class, each participant should be able to focus on their artistic expression and enjoy the experience of photographing the unique wildlife and outdoor subjects in Missouri and beyond. When you enjoy what you're doing it shows in your work. Our goal is to make sure the workshop is not just a great learning experience but a fun and exciting one as well. Reserve your spot and join us for a workshop that will be an enjoyable photographic experience for everyone.